

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action dated January 8, 2008. Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this paper, claims 1-7 and 29 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 29 are directly amended herein and claims 8-28, 30 and 31 are cancelled. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The outstanding Office Action indicates that claim 31 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant submits that claim 1 has been amended directly via amendments herein to include each limitation set forth in claim 31. Further, claim 31 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 is now in allowable form, and respectfully requests claim 1 is allowed.

Claim 2-7 and 29

Claims 2, 3, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Aiello et al. (Pub. No.: 2006/0276255) in view of Chillariga et al. (Pub. No.: 2002/0122406) in further view of Padovani et al. (Pat. No.: 6,574,211). In addition, claims 4 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Aiello in view of Chillariga, claim 5 is rejected under 35


U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Aiello in view of Chillariga and in further view of Gehring et al. (Pub. No.: 2004/0090983), and claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Aiello in view of Chillariga in further view of Bilgic (Pat. No.: 6,256,492). Applicant submits that the pending dependent claims 2-7 and 29 contain all features of their respective independent claim 1. Because amended claim 1 is now in allowable form, pending dependent claims 2-7 and 29 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

LANIER FORD SHAVER & PAYNE P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann I. Dennen', is written over a horizontal line.

Ann I. Dennen
Reg. No. 44,651

200 West Side Square, Suite 5000
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Telephone: (256) 535-1100